

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Appr. February 20, 1998 *Attorney for Applicants*

Ans P. R

Registration No. 43,874

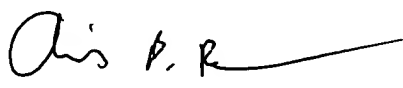
Applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of Applicants' claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120. The present application is a continuation of PCT application No. PCT/JP99/03363, filed June 24, 1999. The specification was amended to reflect this priority claim (see the Preliminary Amendment), and priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 was claimed, for example, in the filed Declaration. However, the Notice of Allowability, item 4, acknowledges a claim for foreign priority under "35 U.S.C. § 119(a) – (d) or (f)", and states,

“Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))”.

Applicants respectfully request acknowledgment that the 35 U.S.C. § 120 claim has been made and perfected. If outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants’ attorney at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By 

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May 4, 2004

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